

Current as of
October 5, 2004

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICES OF KENNETH M. KARAS

Chambers

United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street, Room 920
New York, New York 10007
(212) 805-0274

Courtroom 21D

500 Pearl Street
Eileen Levine
Courtroom Deputy Clerk
(212) 805-4884

Unless otherwise ordered, matters before Judge Karas shall be conducted in accordance with the following practices:

1. Communications With Chambers

A. Letters. Except as otherwise provided below, communications with chambers shall be by letter, with copies simultaneously delivered to all counsel. Copies of correspondence between counsel shall not be sent to the Court.

B. Telephone Calls. Except as provided in Paragraph 1(D) below, telephone calls to chambers are permitted only in emergency situations requiring immediate attention. In such situations only, call chambers at (212) 805-0274.

C. Faxes. Faxes to chambers are not permitted without express prior permission.

D. Docketing, Scheduling, and Calendar Matters. For docketing, scheduling, and calendar matters, call Eileen Levine at (212) 805-4884.

E. Requests for Adjournments or Extensions of Time. All requests for adjournments or extensions of time must state (1) the original date, (2) the number of previous requests for adjournment or extension, (3) whether these previous requests were granted or denied, and (4) whether the adversary consents, and, if not, the reasons given by the adversary for refusing to consent. If the requested adjournment or extension affects any other scheduled dates, a proposed Revised Scheduling Order must be attached. If the request is for an adjournment of a court appearance, absent an emergency it shall be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled appearance.

2. Motions

A. Pre-Motion Conferences in Civil Cases. For discovery motions, follow Local Civil Rule 37.2. For motions other than discovery motions, a pre-motion conference with the court is

required for making any motion, except motions brought on by order to show cause, motions by incarcerated *pro se* litigants, motions for admission *pro hac vice*, motions for reargument, and motions described in Rule 6(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Rule 4(a)(4)(A) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure. To arrange a pre-motion conference, the moving party shall submit a letter not to exceed three (3) pages in length setting forth the basis for the anticipated motion. All parties so served must serve and file a letter response, not to exceed three (3) pages, within three (3) business days from service of the notification letter. To arrange a pre-motion conference for motions governed by a Scheduling Order, the moving party must submit its initial letter four (4) weeks prior to the motion deadline established by the Order. Where a pre-motion conference is not required, motions should be filed when served.

B. Memoranda of Law. Unless prior permission has been granted, memoranda of law in support of and in opposition to motions are limited to 25 pages, and reply memoranda are limited to 10 pages. Memoranda of 10 pages or more shall contain a table of contents. All memoranda of law shall be produced in a font of twelve (12) or higher and shall have one inch margins on all sides. A copy of the complaint should accompany the moving papers. Sur-reply memoranda will not be accepted without prior permission of the Court.

C. Courtesy Copies. Two (2) courtesy copies of all pleadings and motion papers, marked as such, shall be submitted to chambers at the time the papers are served, in accordance with the SDNY policies regarding mail deliveries. **Courtesy copies shall be submitted to chambers for both ECF and non-ECF designated cases.**

D. Filing of Motion Papers. Motion papers shall be filed promptly after service.

E. Oral Argument on Motions. Where the parties are represented by counsel oral argument will be held on all motions. The notice of motion shall state that oral argument will be “on a date and at a time designated by the Court.” The Court will contact the parties to set the specific date and time for oral argument.

F. Pending Motions. If a motion is not decided within 60 days of the time it is fully submitted or of argument, counsel for the movant shall send a letter to call this fact to the Court’s attention.

3. Pretrial Procedures

A. Joint Pretrial Orders in Civil Cases. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, within 30 days following completion of discovery, the parties shall submit to the Court for its approval a Joint Pretrial Order that includes the information required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3), and the following:

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- i. The full caption of the action;
- ii. The names, addresses (including firm names), and telephone and fax numbers of trial counsel;
- iii. A brief statement by plaintiff as to the basis of subject-matter jurisdiction, and a brief statement by each other party as to the presence or absence of subject-matter jurisdiction. Such statements shall include citations to all authority relied on and relevant facts as to citizenship and jurisdictional amount;
- iv. A brief summary by each party of the claims and defenses that party has asserted which remain to be tried, without recital of evidentiary matters but including citations to all statutes relied on. Such summaries shall identify all claims and defenses previously asserted which are not to be tried;
- v. A statement by each party as to whether the case is to be tried with or without a jury, and the number of trial days needed;
- vi. A statement as to whether all parties have consented to trial of the case by a magistrate judge (without identifying which party or parties have or have not so consented);
- vii. Any stipulations of fact or law that have been agreed to by the parties;
- viii. A statement by each party as to the witnesses whose testimony is to be offered in its case in chief, indicating whether such witnesses will testify in person or by deposition;
- ix. A designation by each party of deposition testimony to be offered in its case in chief, with any cross-designations and objections by any other party;
- x. A list by each party of exhibits to be offered in its case in chief, with one star indicating exhibits to which no party objects on grounds of authenticity, and two stars indicating exhibits to which no party objects on any ground; and
- xi. A statement whether the parties consent to less than a unanimous verdict.

B. Filings Prior to Trial in Civil Cases. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, each party shall file with the Joint Pretrial Order:

- i. In jury cases, proposed voir dire questions, verdict form and requests to charge. When feasible, proposed jury instructions should also be submitted on a 3.5" diskette in WordPerfect version 11 format;
- ii. In non-jury cases, proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law. Proposed findings of fact should be detailed;
- iii. In all cases, motions addressing any evidentiary or other issues which should be resolved *in limine*; and
- iv. In any case where such party believes it would be useful, a pretrial memorandum.

C. Filings in Opposition. Any party may file the following documents within one week of the filing of the pretrial order, but in no event less than two (2) days before the scheduled trial date:

- i. Objections to another party's requests to charge or proposed voir dire questions;
- ii. Opposition to any motion *in limine*;
- iii. Opposition to any legal argument in a pretrial memorandum.

Two courtesy copies of the joint pretrial order and all documents filed or served with the pretrial order should be submitted to chambers on the date of filing or service.

4. Conferences

A. Principal Trial Counsel. The attorney who will serve as principal trial counsel must appear at all conferences with the Court.

B. Initial Case Management Conference. The Court will generally schedule a Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(c) conference within three months of the filing of the Complaint. The Notice of Initial Pretrial Conference will be sent to plaintiff's counsel, who will be responsible for distributing copies to all parties.

5. Default Judgments. A party who wishes to obtain a default judgment must proceed by way of an order to show cause and use the procedure set forth in Attachment A.

6. Bankruptcy Appeals. Briefs must be submitted in accordance with Bankr. Rule 8009, 11 U.S.C. Counsel may extend these dates by stipulation submitted to the Court no later than two business days before the brief is due.

7. Notice Regarding Access to Court Filings. With limited exceptions, all Opinions will be posted on CourtWeb. To access CourtWeb, go to www.nysd.uscourts.gov and click **CourtWeb On-Line Rulings**. Parties will be notified when an Opinion is posted. Parties also can sign up for the **CourtWeb Watch List**, which will alert the parties to any new postings regarding a particular case.

8. Criminal Cases. Upon assignment of a criminal case to Judge Karas, the parties immediately shall arrange with the Deputy Clerk for a prompt conference at which the defendant will be present in order to set a discovery and motion schedule. The Assistant United States Attorney shall provide a courtesy copy each of the indictment and the criminal complaint, if one exists, to chambers as soon as practicable.